

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USING A
COLOR TABLE SCHEME FOR DISPLAYING INFORMATION ON EITHER
COLOR OR MONOCHROME DISPLAY

5 ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

 A method and system of determining the screen capability and rendering
the appropriate display attribute is herein described. The present invention
performs this task by using a color table, which contains a list of object types
10 and a corresponding list of display attributes. The application program obtains
the correct display attribute for the object by calling the color table, giving it an
identifier of the object. The color table is indexed by the identifier of the object
and a screen capability flag that is obtained, in one embodiment, from the
operating system. The color table provides the display attribute for the specified
15 object based on the screen capability flag. Advantageously, the application
program does not need to know the computer's display capability. Furthermore,
the application program needs only one piece of computer code, regardless of
the number of display capabilities which are possible. Thus, memory space in
the palmtop is conserved. In another embodiment of the present invention, the
20 application program is allowed to modify the default values of the display
attributes in the color table. Thus, an application program could use its own
color to display an object if the default color is undesirable.